DECEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays

OUR MISTAKE

This spring the Board of Commissioners approved a $10 per month increase to the base rate effective July 1, 2026. The previous rate was $41.88 per month ($40 plus $1.88 inflation adjustment effective January 1, 2026). This meant that effective July 1 the new base rate was $51.88 per month. As your nonprofit water system, these increases are necessary to address inflation and needed investments in the water system.

Unfortunately, we forgot to tell our billing system about the increase. So for the last 4 months our water bills have been at the old rate, i.e., $41.88 per month. In order to rectify this error, the January, 2027, water bill will contain an additional, one-time $40 charge. This will cover the additional $10 per month that should have been charged for each of the months of July, August, September and October.

In summary, our January water bills will show (a) the base rate of $103.76 for November/December ($51.88 per month) and (b) a one-time charge of $40 to make up for the past billing mistake.

We are sorry for this billing error.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact the District office.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE

In the last newsletter, there was a discussion of the need for having a backflow prevention device if there are certain features connected to your water system.

This discussion created some confusion and concern about whether such a device was needed in an existing feature. Particularly, there were questions about the need for a backflow device when a connection was made using a hose bib.

To clarify, when any of the following features is connected directly to a household water system (anything on the customers side of the water meter), a backflow prevention device installed by a plumber is required. This device needs to be annually certified by a qualified inspector and the certification provided to the Neahkahnie Water District.

- Irrigation or outdoor sprinkler/watering systems directly connected to the water system (typically these systems are installed, underground watering systems)
- Hot water based (hydronic) heating system
- Pool, hot tub, or pond
- Fire sprinkler system

For water using features that are connected through a hose bib such as a plant watering device or sprinkler, either an anti-siphon hose bib or a separate anti-siphon device must be used. By code any hose bib installed after the early 1990's must be an anti-siphon bib. The following is a picture of a typical hose bib with a built in anti-siphon device.



It typically has a round plastic cap on top that covers the anti-siphon device. If there is leaking around the cap, a repair kit can be used to repair the anti-siphon device. If a garden hose is left attached during a freeze, this device will often need repair.



This is a typical hose bib that does NOT contain a built-in anti-siphon device. Such a hose bib can allow contaminated water to flow back into the homeowner's system (and also the public system)!



This is a vacuum breaker anti-siphon device that can be attached to the hose bib and a garden hose then screwed onto the device.



This photograph (above) is a hose bib that is NOT anti-siphon with a vacuum breaker anti-siphon device attached. This is the arrangement that should be used if you have older hose bibs. To be extra safe, you can use such a vacuum breaker device on all your hose bibs.

In summary, if a homeowner has a water using feature that is permanently fixed to their water system, a plumber installed backflow prevention device is required. This prevention device must be inspected annually. For a feature that is temporarily attached to a garden hose, either an anti-siphon hose bib and/or a vacuum breaker

anti-siphon device must be installed between the hose bib and the garden hose. These added devices do not need to be inspected annually.

If you still have questions, please contact the District office.

GOOD NEWS REGARDING PURITY OF OUR WATER

The Oregon Health Authority has instituted a public water supply testing requirement for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) commonly called "forever chemicals". The District just received the results from the testing of our water supply and **no such chemicals were found!**

HILLCREST REPAIR

As you may recall from previous reports about the Hillcrest reservoir, it needs repair. It is a steel, multi-section tank with a capacity of about 97,000 gallons serving not only as a storage reservoir but also providing residence time for the mixing of required chemicals. There is significant rust and corrosion on bolts that hold the tank sections together. The tank is also leaking a small amount of water.

Repair work on the tank is scheduled for early next year. The rusted bolts will be replaced and, where necessary, portions of the flanges will be repaired by welding. To make these repairs, the tank must be emptied of water. During this period, water for our system will be supplied by Pirate Spring (instead of springs 1, 2, and 3). The interior of the tank will be inspected and repairs may be made.

BLUE PAINT

You may have seen some fresh, blue paint on round, metal covers throughout the District. Under each of these covers is a valve which controls flow through the pipe to which is attached. Coren Tradd, the District's operator, with the help of a contractor has been "exercising" every valve in the District's system. This is a periodic, necessary process to assure that each valve is operational. The blue paint is a quick identifier of which valves have been checked.



We hope you and yours have the best holiday season.

The Board and Staff at Neahkanie Water District

A message from the *Neahkahnie Community Club*

Jingle 'n Mingle Holiday Party

Saturday - December 12, 2026 - 5:00 to 7:30 pm
Pine Grove Community House - 225 Laneda Avenue
This announcement is an abridged version of the original.

JOIN US AND MAKE THIS A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and a variety of desserts and beverages (including wine, beer and mixed drinks), plus music by Lynn Eisenhauer. And the wonderful opportunity to visit and celebrate with friends and neighbors.

To RSVP or to get more information please send an email to: neahkahniecommunityclub@gmail.com.

The *Jingle 'n Mingle* admission charge is $45 per member; Club membership annual dues for 2026 are $20 per person.

DECEMBER 4th RSVP DEADLINE is firm for receipt of 2026 membership dues and party reservations. Late reservations, walk-ins or refunds cannot be accommodated. Your understanding is appreciated.

Please reach out to Kelley Fox kelley@kelleyfoxwines.com if you'd like to volunteer or if you have any questions.